



My God Loves Jerks 8.13.23

GOD'S CHOICE (Genesis 25)

The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated. One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." Genesis 25:23

STEALING THE BIRTHRIGHT (Genesis 25)

One day Jacob was cooking a stew. Esau came in from the field, starved. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of that red stew—I'm starved!" Jacob said, "Make me a trade: my stew for your rights as the firstborn." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

STEALING THE BLESSING (Genesis 27)

"May peoples serve you and nations honor you. You will master your brothers, and your mother's sons will honor you. Those who curse you will be cursed, those who bless you will be blessed." Genesis 27:29

Esau seethed in anger against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. The time for mourning my father's death is close. And then I'll kill my brother Jacob." Genesis 27:41

TRYING TO MANIPULATE GOD (Genesis 28)

Then Jacob made a vow, "IF GOD will be with **ME** and IF GOD will watch over **ME** on this journey I am taking and IF GOD will give **ME** food to eat and IF GOD will give **ME** clothes to wear and IF GOD let's **ME** return safely to my father's house, **THEN** the Lord will be **MY** God." Genesis 28:20-21

GOD'S LOVE IS BASED ON GOD'S CHARACTER.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the God of gods. His faithful love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords. His faithful love endures forever.
Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever. Psalm 136:2-4 (NLT)

If God loves jerks, then so can I.

Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we must love each other. 1 John 4:11

Do something loving to the most unlovable person in your life

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Accept God's love for yourself.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners [jerks], Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NIV)

For your LifeGroup and personal growth...

What do you know about Jacob in the Bible?

Skim over Genesis 25-28 to get an idea of Jacob's character and his life.

Why do you think God "chose" Jacob over Esau? (this is a hard one—look at Romans 9:10-14 as well).

Talk about why God "chose" YOU...

After you've messed up (or been a jerk), do you ever wonder if God still loves you? What do you do in those moments?

Is God's love conditional or unconditional? Is it based on what God knows you will do? Or is it based on something else?

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)